



English Department News

No. 6, Spring 2021

Dabney Adams Hart Legacy Scholarship, Endowment

Fundraising is under way through the College of Arts & Sciences Development and Special Events Office to support the **Dabney Adams Hart Endowment**, started with seed funding by Hart's family to honor the memory of the former GSU English professor. The endowment will fund both the Dabney Adams Hart Legacy Scholarship and the Dabney Adams Hart Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. If you are interested in contributing to the **Dabney Adams Hart Endowment**, please contact Constance Lewis at clewis91@gsu.edu or fill out the [online donation form](#).

This year the Dabney Adams Hart Legacy Scholarship Award was given to undergraduate **Elizabeth Plumart**, who also won a Frantz Fanon Book Scholarship. Elizabeth is from metro Atlanta

and attended Duluth High School, where she graduated with honors as a Georgia Scholar. She is an avid writer and reader of many genres, and some of her favorite authors are Sarah J. Maas, Billy Collins, and Emily Brontë. During the pandemic, she has enjoyed reading while surrounded by her ever-growing collection of house plants. She is part of the GSU Honors College.



Elizabeth Plumart

Major Administrative Changes in the Department

After six years of leading the English Department, Lynée Gaillet is stepping down as chair. As of July 1, Audrey Goodman, who has been serving as the associate chair, will be the new chairperson. Our new associate chair is Elizabeth Lopez, and her replacement as the director of Lower-Division Studies and the Writing Studio is Michael Harker. Chris Kocela is handing the directorship of Graduate Studies to Tanya Caldwell, and Gina Caison is the new director of the Northumbria Undergraduate Exchange Program.

College of Arts & Sciences Dean Sara Rosen summed up Gaillet's tenure as chair as follows: "Dr. Gaillet has guided the Department of English through a period of continued excellence and innovation. Under her leadership, the department has played a leading role in the implementation of student success initiatives, including the College to Career QEP, First-Year Book Program, Panther Excellence Program, Student Success Academy, Freshman Learning Communities, and others. She oversaw the department's efforts to update to the curricula in several concentra-

tions, redesign graduate requirements and exams, add 4+1 dual degree programs, and create robust online courses. She put extensive energy into mentoring in her department, with successful results for both faculty and students. She has also led by example, coauthoring several publications with her students—something that is not very common in her field. Throughout her time as chair, Dr. Gaillet has been a strong advocate for the department, helping to secure external resources to support scholarship on teaching and learning, to give just one example."



Lynée Lewis Gaillet

Without our standard graduation ceremonies and celebrations, the department has made do. Drs. Gaillet & Malamud took hooding pictures with their PhD graduates.

Left: Distinguished University Professor Gaillet with new PhD Sarah Bramblett.

Right: Regents Professor Randy Malamud with new PhD Shana Latimer.



Teaching in 2021: Spring Break Academic Writing Retreat & Publication and Professionalization Seminar

Professor Tanya Caldwell offered a special graduate course that met over spring break in March: an academic writing retreat and publication and professionalization seminar. In the past, Caldwell has taken students abroad over spring break, and she wanted to offer students an intense, productive course that would fit this unusual academic year.

The function of the seminar was two-fold: 1) To offer insights into and discussions about topics central to academia including getting published, presenting conference papers, the academic job market, working as a lecturer, alternative employment prospects including editing work, establishing communities and a professional identity, writing abstracts, and the dissertation prospectus; 2) For every participant to make significant progress on a single project, whether a conference paper, an article for publication, a dissertation prospectus, or a dissertation chapter.

The six guest speakers from the US, Canada, and the UK spoke about academic jobs markets and the changing state of the profession, working as a professional academic editor and scholarly editing, post docs and other fellowships, the archive and working in archives, and working as a lecturer. Caldwell gave additional online lectures on topics including conference-going, writing abstracts, and the nature of the dissertation prospectus.

Ashley Holmes: Provost's Faculty Research Fellowship & Humanities Research Center Faculty Fellow

Ashley Holmes will participate in the first ever Humanities Research Center Maymester Virtual Writers' Retreat. The HRC fellows will spend the four weeks of Maymester working on their research and writing, while meeting on a regular basis to report on their progress and to cheer each other on. Holmes also learned that the Provost's Faculty Research Fellowship she was awarded in 2020 was re-instated; all of the Provost's Fellowships were put on hold last year.

Holmes is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Writing Across the Curriculum program. She studies how public pedagogy and community-based re-

The students spent the bulk of their remaining time writing and also had individual conferences with Caldwell about their projects. Caldwell said the week was a great success and that she hopes to reprise the intensive class over a longer period such as the Maymester. Student feedback was excellent. Anonymous comments included:

- "It has really opened my eyes to the many realities of academia: I think as a graduate student, we all have certain false views or expectations of what academia life is or should be like, so it was definitely nice to hear about 'the real deal' from guest speakers who mostly work in academia."
- "I found the talks with industry professionals very insightful. I really appreciated how they were very straight forward with us regarding our professional prospects in that field. It wasn't all rose-colored glasses or doom and gloom. It felt frank and realistic. As a result, a lot of my anxiety about going on the job market has been relieved and instead I feel empowered to find the position that works best for me."
- "This course has been so helpful in getting me back on track with my thesis work, especially given how my year started! While it wasn't Scotland, it was still a great experience."

search encourage student writers to engage with local publics and civic issues. She will be using the HRC fellow position and the Provost's fellowship to support work on her book project, "Learning on Location: Place-Based Education for Diverse Learners," which is under contract for the Engaged Learning and Teaching series published by Stylus in collaboration with the Center for Engaged Learning at Elon University. This work invites faculty, staff, and administrators across the disciplines to consider the significance of place within pedagogy—to question not just the *what* and *how* of teaching but also the *where*.

Faculty Spotlight: Danielle Cadena Deulen

Danielle Cadena Deulen is the latest addition to the GSU English faculty. She has 18 years of higher ed teaching experience and was most recently Associate Professor at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. Deulen gave up tenure at Willamette “for the opportunity to teach in a large public institution in a diverse city, to engage the brilliant work of graduate and undergraduate students alike, and to build a creative nonfiction writing track at GSU.”



Deulen teaches poetry and creative nonfiction and is the author of three books and a chapbook: *Our Emotions Get Carried Away Beyond Us*, *American Libretto*; *The Riots*, which won the AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction and the GLCA New Writers Award; and *Lovely Asunder*. Her poems and essays have appeared in many journals, including *Fourth Genre*, *Shenandoah*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *The Utne Reader*, as well as several anthologies, including *Best New Poets*, and *After Montaigne: Contemporary Essayists Cover the Essays*. She is co-creator and host of “Lit from the Basement,” a literary podcast and radio show (litfromthebasement.com).

Deulen’s Major Publications

Our Emotions Get Carried Away Beyond Us (2015) raises questions about how Western philosophical and sociological structures perpetuate a culture of violence in America. The title was taken from an essay by Michel de Montaigne, who writes, “We are never ‘at home’: we are always outside ourselves. Fear, desire, hope impel us toward the future; they rob us of feelings and concern for what now is, in order to spend time over what will be—even when we ourselves shall be no more.” The book both upholds and challenges this idea, showing how the realm of emotions—of irrationality, of imagination—

is the source of violence and beauty, destruction and creation, war and art.

American Libretto (2015) includes traditional lyric poems as well as lyric essays that take their titles after essays by de Montaigne. Like Montaigne’s essays, these poems juxtapose stories of personal experience with philosophy, politics, and ancient knowledge, moving from point to point by associative leaps rather than carefully arranged

logical arguments. The most prominent theme in the book is that of “awakening,” as the speakers of these poems always seem to be “waking to the light of our failures,” determined to see the world more clearly—to get the story right.

Chosen by Luis Alberto Urrea for the AWP Prize in Creative Nonfiction, Deulen’s first book of personal essays, *The Riots* (2011), draws mostly from personal experience and explores the attractions and dangers of intimacy—how ideas of class, race, gender, and disability construct social and psychological barriers within close relationships. Structurally, the essays in the collection are diverse, alternating traditional narratives with what “still lifes” (brief lyric essays) and collages that characterize a particular time, place, and sensibility.

The title of this collection *Lovely Asunder* (2011) is from Gerard Manley Hopkins’s poem “The Wreck of the Deutschland.” Hopkins uses the phrase to describe starlight in a poem about the drowning of five Franciscan nuns. Deulen amplifies and modifies this description to include other bright yet tragic female figures of western religion and myth (Eve, Lilith, Joan of Arc, Persephone), as well as other unnamed female speakers.

You can find more information about Deulen at her website, www.danielledeulen.net.

Congratulations to our Retirees!

The English Department wants to congratulate 2021 retirees, Marta Hess and Reiner Smolinski. We wish could hold parties for them this spring.

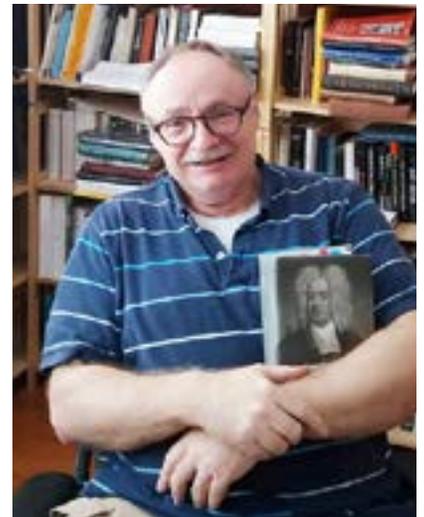


Marta Hess started working at Georgia State in 1994 as the administrative coordinator for SAMLA (the South Atlantic Modern Language Association), planning the annual convention and publishing the *South Atlantic Review*. In 1996, the department hired Marta as its business manager. While managing budgets, grants, and payroll, among other things, Marta earned her MA in English and is now a PhD candidate in English in Rhetoric & Composition. Marta enjoys teaching undergraduates and was recognized with the department's teaching award; she also won the Senior Staff Leadership Award for the College of Arts & Sciences in 2010. Marta's plans for retirement include frequent visits to Pittsburgh, one of her favorite cities, and reading the stacks of books that sit in her study. First up are marathon re-readings of *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

Reiner Smolinski shared some of his memories from his years at GSU, starting with when then-department chair Virginia Spencer Carr picked him up for his on-campus interview in early 1986:

Nervous as I was, Virginia's friendly and accommodating manner instantly put me at ease and made me feel comfortable. I also have fond memories of setting up our GSU/Johannes-Gutenberg University Mainz faculty and student exchange way back in 1989, crowned by our dual PhD degree in 2019—both still going strong. Many of our and their exchange students have gone on to become academics in their own right as professors, journalists, teachers, TV anchor persons, etc. (As a good Yente, the matchmaker, I also had a hand in some of our exchange students finding their marriage partners on either side of the Atlantic.) I am also grateful to our friends in Mainz and at GSU who supported our tri-national, week-long seminar in Mainz (2010), Atlanta (2011), Beijing (2012)—all financed by a generous grant from DAAD, Deutsche Akademischer Austauschdienst (i.e., the German taxpayer). Not to forget, my colleagues in the department have become my surrogate family (in more ways than one). Thank you all.

Last but not least, I have no intention of going fishing—either on Walden Pond or anywhere else. There are two more Yale UP contracts, three GSU dissertations, and four of the ten *Biblia Americana* volumes to be shepherded through the press. So, did anyone say "Retirement"?



To read about Dr. Smolinski's academic work, especially about editing and writing about the Mather Family Papers, please view his profile at english.gsu.edu/profile/reiner-smolinski/.

Congratulations to our 2021 graduates & award winners!

The English Department wants to congratulate all of our 2021 graduates. On April 29, the department held an online version of our majors recognition and awards party. The department would like to highlight a few of our graduating senior award winners here.

Ben Dollar, Upper Division Writing Award

After completing the BA with honors this spring, Ben plans to pursue graduate study in English literature at Auburn University. His research interests include Chaucer, Langland, Milton, Old/Middle English philology, and the influence of patristic authors on Medieval thought. Outside his areas of specialization, his favorite authors are Dostoevsky, Faulkner, and Walker Percy. Born and reared in Atlanta, Dollar plays violin in the GSU Orchestra and receives instruction on that instrument in the studio of Dr. Christos Galileas. He serves as the musical director of Concordi Laetitia, a choir of ten Catholic young professionals dedicated to performing the greatest works from the Church's musical patrimony, especially those of the English Renaissance, around the Atlanta area. He devotes the balance of his spare time to tennis and golf.

Favorite English class? Dr. Stephen Dobranski's Milton seminar, ENGL 4150.

Piece of writing you're proud of? My honors thesis, "Notes Toward a Grammar of Conscience in *Piers Plowman*."

Any advice for aspiring English majors? Read everything you can get your hands on. *Ars longa, vita brevis*.



Casie Minot, James E. Routh Outstanding English Major Award

Casie is graduating with a literature concentration and a minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is a staff member at GSU's *Underground* literary journal, a poet, and has two cats named Boomer and Jeff. After graduation, she plans to study literature at the graduate level.

Favorite class? I have enjoyed every English class I have taken at Georgia State, but the one class I find myself continually reflecting on is Dr. Randy Malamud's "20th Century British Literature." Dr. Malamud's instruction throughout the course and feedback on my semester-long research project informed my decision to consider studying literature at the graduate level. The texts assigned were also immensely compelling and relevant to studying the complexities of "Brexit."

Advice for aspiring English majors? I would encourage any aspiring English majors to take one English course outside of the English core requirements that they find compelling or that at least could be enjoyable. As someone who enjoyed English but was hesitant about switching my major to English, I decided to try one World Literature course to see if the major could be a good fit for me as opposed to the STEM-related fields I was considering at the time. I feel like this gave me the opportunity to take my time contemplating and

Graduating Seniors, continued

researching my future in the field and develop a more accurate representation of what my classes might look like in the future. Furthermore, I advise taking advantage of the many resources and opportunities Georgia State has to offer. I found that reaching out to my professors, collaborating with my classmates, and going to the writer's workshop were invaluable experiences that significantly improved my work as a writer, reader, student, and person.

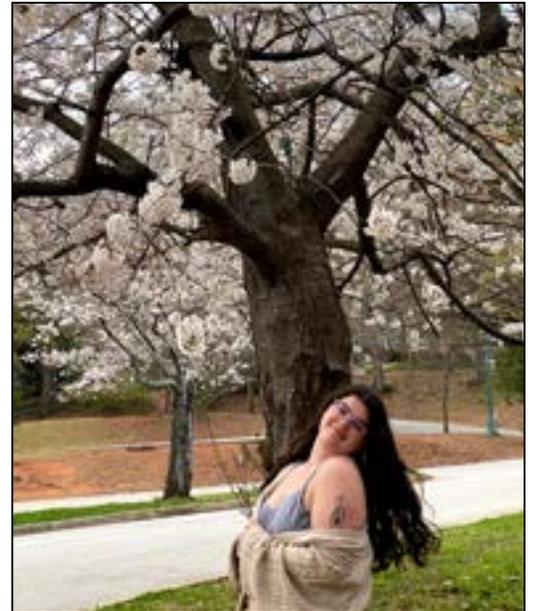
Grace Dalton, Eleanor M. Pratt Endowment Award

Grace plans to continue at GSU for the MA in Teaching English and then to "join the vital workforce of English secondary educators." Grace has previously been awarded GSU English's Frantz Fanon and Dabney Hart Awards and the Honor's College Parents Club scholarship.

Favorite class? Southern Literature with Dr. Pearl McHaney.

Piece of writing you're proud of? I'm most proud of my undergraduate thesis on trauma and spirituality in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*.

Advice for aspiring English majors? Make your literary knowledge worth it—use it to empower others and to help them tell their stories. Otherwise, we're really just keeping it for ourselves, and it won't do much if it's just rattling around in our brains.



Fletcher Varnson, 2021 GSU Undergraduate Research Conference's Global Engagement Award

Sponsored by the Office of International Initiatives, this award recognizes outstanding student projects from across all disciplines that address global or international issues.

Favorite Class? There are so many good classes to choose from, but the winner has to be Dr. Melissa

McLeod's study abroad class on the French Revolution. I have been obsessed with the French Revolution for a long time now, so getting to ingest a massive amount of literature and baguettes while roaming around the streets of Paris like a true flâneur was a real treasure.

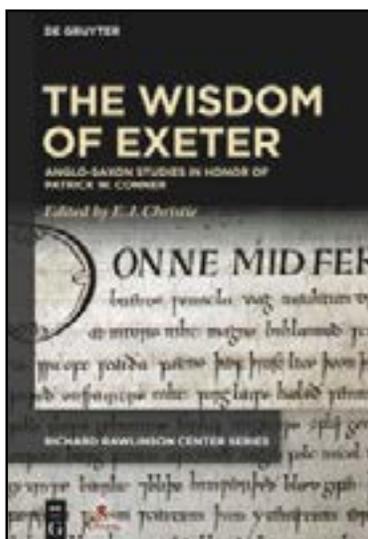
Piece of writing you're proud of? I have two papers I am the proudest of: my honors thesis, "Object-Relations and Melancholia in Browning's 'Porphyria's Lover,'" and "Ishiguro's Metaphor of the Butler and Understanding Brexit." The first of these papers pushed me to my limits as a researcher and writer; the latter allowed me to discuss my favorite living author, Kazuo Ishiguro, and his brilliance. I got to return to the Ishiguro paper into a GSURC presentation that won me an award, as well!

Advice? Always read and write more than you need to if you can. The great part about being an English major is that there is always room to grow your sensibilities as a reader and writer: you can always bring more to a reading or a piece of writing you've done. Plus, you're getting to do more of what you love: reading great books and writing about them.

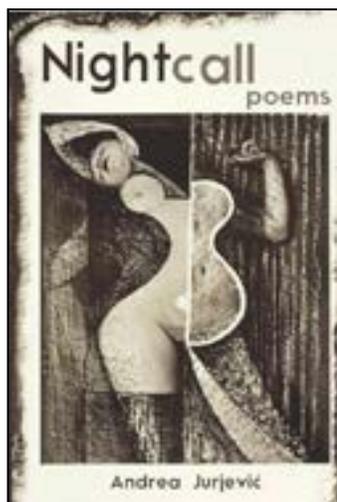
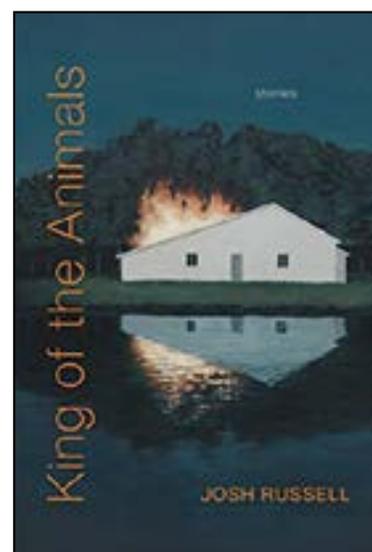


English Faculty Publication Highlights

Eddie J. Christie edited *The Wisdom of Exeter: Anglo-Saxon Studies in Honor of Patrick W. Conner* (Richard Rawlinson Center Series for Anglo-Saxon Studies, DeGruyter/Medieval Institute, 2020). This volume collects original essays in literary criticism and literary theory, philology, codicology, metrics, and art history. Composed by prominent scholars in Anglo-Saxon studies, these essays honor the depth and breadth of Patrick W. Conner's influence in the discipline as a scholar, teacher, editor, administrator, and innovator in Anglo-Saxon studies for four decades.

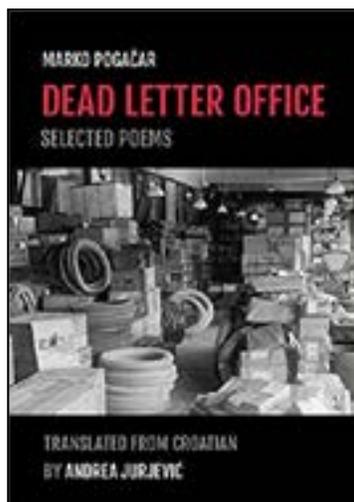


The innovative and dazzling short stories collected in **Josh Russell's** *King of the Animals* (LSU Press/Yellow Shoe Fiction 2021) explore love and heartbreak, growing up and growing old, cities and suburbs, the fantastic and the everyday. A teenager and his family seek asylum in an Atlanta IKEA after their split-level is burned down because his father made fun of an autocrat's bad grammar. A man re-members how seeing a snapshot of his sister naked changed his life—and hers too. A talking doll fails her spelling test, and a king made of sugar and flour watches Fox News and smokes dope with the neighbor kid.



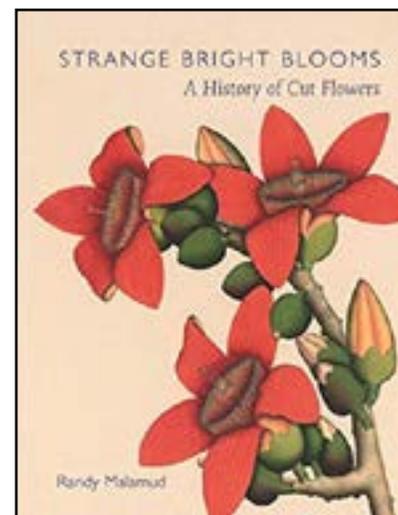
Andrea Jurjević's chapbook *Nightcall: Poems* (2021) is part of Willow Springs Books' ACME surrealist series.

Jurjević has also continued her translation work. In her words, Marko Pogačar's *Dead Letter Office* (Word Work 2020) is sharp-witted with a kind of punk-rock sensibility. Reviewer Kareem James Abu-Zeid writes, "Pogačar's incisive poetry finds new life in Jurjević's dexterously colloquial translations. At times witty, at times ironic, at times remarkably moving, this collection is a welcome introduction to one of Croatian literature's brightest stars."



Virginia Woolf's novel famously begins—"Mrs Dalloway said she would buy the flowers herself." Of course she would: why would anyone surrender the best part of the day to someone else? Flowers grace our lives at moments of celebration and despair. Flowers brighten our homes, our parties, and our rituals with incomparable notes of natural beauty, but the "nature" in these displays is tamed and conscribed. **Randy Malamud's** *Strange Bright Blooms: A History of Cut Flowers* seeks to understand the transplanted nature of cut flowers—of our relationship with them and the careful curation of their very existence.

It is a picaresque, unpredictable ramble through the world of flowers, but also the world itself displaying painting, murals, fashion, and public art, glass flowers, pressed flowers, flowery church hats, weaponized flowers, deconstructed flowers, flower power... and much more.



Contact us, follow us, support us!

The Department of English is located on floors 22, 23, and 24 of 25 Park Place (the former SunTrust Building).

Giving: Please visit english.gsu.edu/giving to learn about giving online or by mail to our foundation or about making a more specifically targeted gift. If you are interested in the **Dabney Adams Hart Endowment**, please contact department chair Lynée Gaillet at LGaillet@gsu.edu.

Office/Delivery Address: 25 Park Place NE
23rd Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303

Mailing Address: PO Box 3970
Atlanta, GA 30302-3970

Phone: (404) 413-5800

Website: english.gsu.edu

Facebook: EnglishDepartmentGSU

Twitter: @GSU_English

English Department News staff: Lori Howard

Feedback? Please email Lori at Englishalumni@gsu.edu.

Congratulations are in order!



Owen Cantrell (PhD 2015) won GSU Perimeter College’s 2020-2021 Outstanding Junior Faculty Award! Cantrell was recognized in 2020 as Outstanding Honors Faculty and, as coordinator for the Georgia State University Prison Education Project (GSUPEP), he received the Teaching for Social Justice and Democracy award. Cantrell engages students in public scholarship and service learning, connecting them with multiple community organizations as part of service-learning projects for his English courses. In his role as coordinator of GSUPEP, Cantrell facilitates for-credit and enrichment courses for incarcerated students throughout the state of Georgia. During his tenure as coordinator, the program has expanded to additional prisons, and increased the number of students able to take classes. Cantrell teaches at the GSU Perimeter–Alpharetta Campus.

